

**Department of Planning and Budget
2011 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: HB1550

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Englin

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Textbook publishers; Board of Education shall certify publishers.

5. Summary: Provides that the Board of Education shall certify publishers of textbooks rather than approving the textbooks themselves. In order to become a Board-certified publisher, a publisher must agree to (i) employ established content experts to review every textbook available for sale to Virginia school divisions, (ii) list with each book the content experts that have reviewed it, (iii) certify that the content of books for sale to Virginia school divisions in Standards of Learning subjects meet the appropriate mandated content standards, and (iv) agree to be fully responsible for replacing, correcting, or otherwise fixing any mistakes discovered by the Board or the Superintendent.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation provides that the Board of Education shall certify publishers of textbooks rather than approving the textbooks themselves. The certification requires that publishers agree to “(1) employ established content experts, in accordance with guidelines established by the Board, to review every textbook available for sale to Virginia school divisions, (2) list with each book the content experts that have reviewed it, (3) certify that the content of books for sale to Virginia school divisions in Standards of Learning subjects meet the appropriate mandated content standards, and (4) agree to be fully responsible for replacing, correcting, or otherwise fixing any mistakes discovered by the Board or the Superintendent.”

This legislation will have an administrative cost for the Department of Education to develop guidelines that define what constitutes “established content experts” to be employed by publishers. However, it is anticipated that any such costs could be absorbed within current resources.

This legislation also removes the requirement that the Board of Education publish the current lowest wholesale price for certified textbooks. However, school divisions are required to purchase textbooks whose contract price does not exceed the lowest wholesale price for the

textbook across the United States. Removing this information from the website could create an additional administrative burden for school divisions to research the lowest nationwide wholesale price for each textbook they purchase. Any related costs would vary by division depending on the number of textbooks purchased each year. Therefore, a reliable fiscal impact estimate cannot be calculated at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Board of Education, Department of Education, and local school divisions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/24/2011 dpbsbj

Document: G:\Legislation\2011\posted\HB1550.doc